



McKINLEY IRVIN

FAMILY LAW

BRENT BOHAN

PARTNER



RATED AV™ PREEMINENT®
WASHINGTON SUPER LAWYERS® 2024
BEST LAWYERS: ONES TO WATCH®,
2025

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Child Custody
- Child Support
- Divorce
- Domestic Violence
- High Net Worth Divorce
- LGBT Family Law
- Relocation
- Unmarried Couples

CONTACT BRENT

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Jobs in the Seattle area were scarce for new lawyers when Brent Bohan graduated from law school. But that didn't stop this high-energy, can-do attorney from carving out what turned into a successful niche practice—one that led him, ultimately, to focus his professional expertise on family law.

"Initially, I launched my own private practice, handling a wide range of cases," recalls the Washington Super Lawyer. "I found I had a special knack for working with families in transition."

Fast forward a few years, during which time this talented, entrepreneurial legal counselor began getting noticed by some of the best family lawyers in Seattle. In 2014, McKinley Irvin partner David Starks observed him argue a case in court. He was impressed. Talks began and, within weeks, Brent was named the newest member of the Northwest's largest family law firm. Just five years later, he was named partner.

"McKinley Irvin fosters a positive professional culture, focused first and foremost and finally on our clients. We possess a level of legal talent and resources unmatched in the Pacific Northwest."

That Brent thrives in this environment is apparent. His beneficiaries? The clients he represents, who value his empathy, his vitality, his smarts, and his candor.

"One of the first things I tell my clients is this: They pay me to tell them the truth," he insists. "If there is a problem with their case, I tell them about it. Immediately. I don't oversell—and I don't 'wait until Monday.' I'm religious about checking my emails; and I'm quick to respond."

In Brent's mind, there are other indispensable keys to success in the practice of family law. Chief among them are the ability to listen, "really listen," and to discern what it is each client wants to get out of what is, for most, a painful process.

"I'm attentive to what my clients tell me," notes the Seattle office attorney and CrossFit enthusiast. "What is it they want out of this difficult proceeding? These are their decisions. This is their life."

"I left every conversation and email with Brent feeling better about my situation and more relaxed. I also knew though that he could be incredibly tough with the opposing counsel when it was needed."

– KATHLEEN, FORMER CLIENT



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EDUCATION

JD, Vermont Law School
MA, Environmental Law and Policy, Vermont Law School
BA, Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, University of Washington

DISTINCTIONS

Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)
Peer review rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®
Washington Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers®, 2023-2024
Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America in the field of Family Law, 2021-2025
Washington Rising Star by Super Lawyers®, 2017-2021
Rated "Superb" 10 out of 10 on Avvo.com

APPOINTMENTS

Board of Trustees, King County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division

MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association, Family Law Section & Litigation Section
Washington State Bar Association, Family Law Section
Washington State Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section
King County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division
Snohomish County Bar Association, Family Law Section & Young Lawyers Division
Federal Bar Association
Federal Trial Bar
Washington State Association for Justice, Eagle Member and Attorney Member
Washington Mediation Association

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Pro Bono Adjunct Professor, Seattle University School of Law, 2022

RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Presenter, "Non-Pattern-form Actions – DeFacto Parentage, Committed Intimate Relationships," Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington (DRAW) Annual Meeting, October 2022
- Presenter, Advanced Child And Spousal Support Issues, Advanced Family Law Seminar, National Business Institute, 2021
- Author, Part One: Dissolution, Legal Separation and Declaration Concerning Validity, Chapter 9 Domestic Relations Practice, 2019 Washington Lawyers Practice Manual, King County Bar Association, June 2020

"From the beginning Brent was able to clearly outline the various stages, expectations, and potential outcomes. He was calm, collected, and confident when I was not. More importantly Brent was able to shield me from the exasperating and difficult legal system allowing me to focus on my children. With the divorce behind me now, I don't believe I would be this happy were it not for Brent's expertise, professionalism, and talents."

– FORMER CLIENT, SEATTLE, WA

ABOUT MCKINLEY IRVIN

Founded in 1991, McKinley Irvin is the Pacific Northwest's premier law firm focusing exclusively on the practice of family law. Attorneys at McKinley Irvin are acknowledged leaders in a range of traditional and cutting-edge areas of the practice, including divorce matters involving complex financial issues, collaborative law, contested child custody, international family law, military family law, and LGBT family law.



Super Lawyers®



Ranked Tier 1
in the Seattle
Metro in
the field of
Family Law